Test fire of Dhanush

587. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Dhanush', the indigenously developed short range ballistic missile, was test fired from the Bay of Bengal off the Orissa coast recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that 'Dhanush' is the naval version of the surface to surface missile system Prithvi-II; and

(c) if so, when 'Dhanush' is expected to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. 'Dhanush' was test fired successfully from a naval ship off the Orissa coast on 7th November, 2004.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Development tests have been completed. Dhanush is in the final phase of induction.

Financial clearance of specialised clothing for soldiers at Siachen and Kargil

588. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the army has asked for three sets of specialised clothing for soldiers at 16,000 feet at Siachen and Kargil but have not yet got financial clearance for the third set;

(b) whether it is a fact that the third set is required for soldiers who may have to be rushed in, in case hostilities break out and to start the acclimatisation process for the next batch, once the soldiers currently at the Northern Command make their way to Siachen and Kargil;

(c) whether it is a fact that total amount required for three sets of winter clothing a year is Rs.142.2 crores out of the Defence budget of Rs.72,000 crore; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in according the financial clearance?